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EXAMINER

WALLERSON, MARK E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/579,733

Applicant(s)
Nobuta

Examiner
Mark Wallerson

Art Unit
2622



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 7, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 26, 27, 29, 58, 59, and 62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 26, 27, 29, 58, 59, and 62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on 7/7/2003.
2. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 24, 26, 27, 29, 58, and 59 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita (U. S. 5,021,892) in view of Kawamata et. al. (hereinafter referred to as Kawamata) (U. S. 4,989,163).

With respect to claim 27, Kita discloses an image processing device capable of operating in plural modes including a read mode (column 2, lines 47-50); a print mode (column 2, lines 51-53); a first copying mode (column 5, lines 65-68) and a second copying mode (column 6, lines 51-55) comprising in the first copying mode, reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by a scanner (60) (column 3, lines 30-36 and column 5, lines 16-47); a first bidirectional general purpose interface (5) (column 6, lines 20-28) for transmitting the image signal output by the scanner (60) to an external computer (8) (column 5, lines 65-67), which

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performs necessary image processing on the transmitted image signal (column 3, lines 46-48) to provide a second processed image signal in the first copying mode, and receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer (the data being sent from the computer to the printer would have to pass through interface (5)) (column 5, lines 65-68); a second bidirectional interface (66) (which reads on for connecting a mechanism), for outputting the second signal to a printer (3), and in the second copying mode (which reads on Copy Function) reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by the scanner (column 5, lines 6-47); performing image processing necessary for copying (printing) on the image signal output by the scanner in a control unit (54) for controlling the image processing to provide a first processed image signal (column 5, lines 31-47), and outputting the first processed image signal to the printer via the bidirectional general purpose interface (column 5, lines 48-56), wherein each of the first and second copying modes is performed in response to a designation of corresponding first and second copying modes (IMAGE INPUT function and COPY function) (column 6, line 50 to column 7, line 7).

Kita differs from claim 27 in that he does not clearly disclose that the first and second bidirectional interfaces are of a same standard.

Kawamata discloses a print system wherein all of the interfaces are standardized (column 1, line 67 to column 2, line 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita wherein the first and second bidirectional interfaces are of a same standard. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

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the time of the invention to have modified Kita by the teaching of Kawamata in order to increase the processing speed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 24, 59, and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita (U. S. 5,021,892) in view of Kawamata et. al. (hereinafter referred to as Kawamata) (U. S. 4,989,163).

With respect to claims 24 and 62, Kita discloses an image processing device (1) comprising a scanner (60) for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal (column 3, lines 30-36 and column 5, lines 16-47); a control unit (which reads on 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)) including a control circuit (50) for controlling the device (column 4, lines 46-54) and performing necessary image processing on the image signal output from the scanner to provide a first processed image signal (column 5, lines 33-37); a first bidirectional general purpose interface (5) (column 6, lines 20-28) for transmitting the image signal input by the scanner (60) under control of the control unit (50) to an external computer (8) (column 5, lines 65-67), which performs necessary image processing on the transmitted image

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signal (column 3, lines 46-48) to provide a second processed image signal, and receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer (the data being sent from the computer to the printer would have to pass through interface (5)) (column 5, lines 65-68); a second bidirectional interface (66) (which reads on for connecting a mechanism), for outputting the first and second signals to a printer (3), wherein the device has a plurality of modes (column 6, line 50 to column 7, line 25) including a read mode (column 2, lines 47-50); a print mode (column 2, lines 51-53); a first copying mode (which reads on Image Input Function) in response to a copying designation by a user (column 19, lines 23-32) which the image signal outputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer (8) (column 5, lines 65-68 and column 6, line 65 to column 7, line 7), and a second copying mode (which reads on Copy Function) performed in response to a single designation (which reads on when the Copy key is depressed) in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer without using the external computer (column 6, lines 50-55), the image signal output from the scanner being transmitted (which reads on under control of the personal computer or by computer programs) (column 5, lines 65-68; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 23, lines 12-32) in order of control unit (50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)), first bidirectional interface (5), the external computer (8), the first bidirectional interface (5), the control unit (50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)), and the second bidirectional interface (66) in the first copying mode (column 5, lines 63-68) based on the second processed signal (which reads on the signal from the computer), and the image signal from said scanner (60) being transmitted in order of the control

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unit (50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)) and the second bidirectional interface (66) in the second mode (column 6, lines 51-55) so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal (which reads on the image signal from the scanner).

Kita differs from claims 24 and 62 in that he does not clearly disclose that the first and second bidirectional interfaces are of a same standard.

Kawamata discloses a print system wherein all of the interfaces are standardized (column 1, line 67 to column 2, line 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita wherein the first and second bidirectional interfaces are of a same standard. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita by the teaching of Kawamata in order to increase the processing speed.

With respect to claim 59, Kita discloses a density adjusting feature (figure 2, part 25).

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 24, 59 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita in view of Menendez (U. S. 5,113,494).

With respect to claims 24 and 62, Kita discloses an image processing device (1) comprising a scanner (60) for inputting an image signal (column 5, lines 16-47); a control unit

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(which reads on 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)) including a control circuit (50) for controlling the device (column 4, lines 46-54) and performing necessary image processing on the image signal input from the scanner to provide a first processed image signal (column 5, lines 33-37); a first bidirectional general purpose interface (5) (column 6, lines 20-28) for transmitting the image signal input by the scanner (60) under control of the control unit (50) to an external computer (8) (column 5, lines 65-67), which performs necessary image processing on the transmitted image signal (column 3, lines 46-48) to provide a second processed image signal, and receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer (the data being sent from the computer to the printer would have to pass through interface (5)) (column 5, lines 65-68); a second bidirectional interface (66) (which reads on for connecting a mechanism), for outputting the first and second signals to a printer (3), wherein the device has a plurality of modes (column 6, line 50 to column 7, line 25) including a first copying mode (which reads on Image Input Function) in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer using the external computer (8) (column 5, lines 65-68 and column 6, line 65 to column 7, line 7), and a second copying mode (which reads on Copy Function) in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer without using the external computer (column 6, lines 50-55), the image signal from the scanner being automatically transmitted (which reads on under control of the personal computer or by computer programs) (column 5, lines 65-68; column 6, lines 65-67 and column 23, lines 12-32) in order of control unit (50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)), first bidirectional interface (5), the external computer (8), the first

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bidirectional interface (5), the control unit (50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)), and the second bidirectional interface (66) in the first copying mode (column 5, lines 63-68) based on the second processed signal (which reads on the signal from the computer), and the image signal from said scanner (60) being transmitted in order of the control unit (50, 51, 52, 54, 56, and buses (DB, AB, and CB)) and the second bidirectional interface (66) in the second mode (column 6, lines 51-55) so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal (which reads on the image signal from the scanner).

Kita differs from claims 24 and 62 in that he does not clearly disclose that the first and second bidirectional interfaces are of a same standard.

Menendez discloses a print system comprising various nodes (interfaces) 2_1 and 2_{k+1} connected to a bus (figure 1) wherein all of the nodes are identical (column 9, lines 41-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita wherein the first and second bidirectional interfaces are of a same standard. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita by the teaching of Menendez in order to increase the processing speed.

With respect to claim 59, Kita discloses a density adjusting feature (figure 2, part 25).

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita in view of Kawamata as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Kochis (U. S. 5,218,458).

With respect to claim 26, Kita as modified differs from claim 26 in that he does not clearly disclose that the computer has a modem capable of receiving and processing image data from the interface, and transmitting the data to a public telephone line. Kochis discloses a system that transmits a data file between two computer systems via a telephone line (110, figure 1), utilizing PC fax cards (which reads on a modem) (column 2, lines 53-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified wherein the computer would have a modem capable of receiving and processing image data from the interface, and transmitting the data to a public telephone line. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified by the teaching of Kochis in order to be able to transfer files between computer systems as taught by Kochis in column 1, lines 6-7.

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita in view of Menendez as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Kochis (U. S. 5,218,458).

With respect to claim 26, Kita as modified differs from claim 26 in that he does not clearly disclose that the computer has a modem capable of receiving and processing image data from the interface, and transmitting the data to a public telephone line. Kochis discloses a system that transmits a data file between two computer systems via a telephone line (110, figure 1), utilizing PC fax cards (which reads on a modem) (column 2, lines 53-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified wherein the computer would have a modem capable of receiving and processing image data from the interface, and transmitting the data to a public telephone line. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified by the teaching of Kochis in order to be able to transfer files between computer systems as taught by Kochis in column 1, lines 6-7.

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita in view of Kawamata as applied to claim 27 above and further in view of Kochis et. al. (hereinafter referred to as Kochis) (U. S. 5,218,458).

With respect to claim 29, Kita as modified differs from claim 29 in that he does not clearly disclose that the computer has a modem capable of receiving and processing image data from the interface, and transmitting the data to a public telephone line. Kochis discloses a system that transmits a data file between two computer systems via a telephone line (110, figure 1), utilizing PC fax cards (which reads on a modem) (column 2, lines 53-65). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified wherein the computer would have a modem capable of receiving and processing image data from the interface, and transmitting the data to a public telephone line. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified by the teaching of Kochis in order to be able to transfer files between computer systems as taught by Kochis in column 1, lines 6-7.

15.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita in view of Kawamata as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Kenmochi (U. S. 5,900,947).

With respect to claim 58, Kita as modified differs from claim 58 in that he does not clearly disclose that the scanner generates a color image signal. Kenmochi discloses a communications apparatus wherein a color reading unit may be utilized (column 11, lines 63-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified wherein the scanner would generate a color image signal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified by the teaching of Kenmochi in order to output color data to the personal computer as disclosed by Kenmochi in column 12, lines 1-3.

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita in view of Menendez as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Kenmochi (U. S. 5,900,947).

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With respect to claim 58, Kita as modified differs from claim 58 in that he does not clearly disclose that the scanner generates a color image signal. Kenmochi discloses a communications apparatus wherein a color reading unit may be utilized (column 11, lines 63-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified wherein the scanner would generate a color image signal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kita as modified by the teaching of Kenmochi in order to output color data to the personal computer as disclosed by Kenmochi in column 12, lines 1-3.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments filed 7/7/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant alleges that one important feature of claim 24 is that in the first copying mode (transmission of the image data from the scanner to the external computer then to the printer is in response to a copying designation and the copying designation (depressing copying key 259) includes reading a document, processing the read image data and printing the processed image data.

The Examiner respectfully submits that the original DOES NOT disclose that the first copying mode is performed without user intervention or that these steps are performed without

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user intervention. Pages 22 and 23 of the original specification disclose that after the image data is read by the scanner and transmitted to the host where it is subjected to image processing, it is thereafter transmitted to a reception side device. Although lines 13-23 of page 26 disclose that the host computer send the target print data to the CPU (1), there is no disclosure that it is done without user intervention. In fact, on page 18, line 19 to page 19, line 3 of the original specification, Applicant discloses that after a print key has been selected, and image processing parameters have been set a start/stop key is depressed when the printing operation is to be performed.

Applicant also submits that the Image Input Function of *Kita* lacks the processing of the first copying mode of claim 24. Again, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. *Kita* clearly discloses transmitting scanned image data from the scanner to the host (column 7, lines 1-4), where image and data processing are carried out by the computer (column 3, lines 46-48) wherein the data may be stored on a disk and then transmitted to the printer (column 20, lines 6-67).

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an
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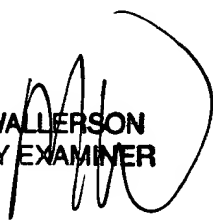
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